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ABSTRACT

The Rhode Island Tech Prep Associate Degree Program is a statewide partnership between the Community College of Rhode Island, 70 percent of the high schools in the state, and the business community. It targets students enrolled in unfocused general education programs in high schools and involves them in an applied course of study in mathematics, science, and communications. Tech prep provides students with an opportunity to enroll in courses at the secondary level that are occupationally related and taught in a "hands-on" cooperative learning setting. These curricula provide students with a better foundation of basic proficiency skills so they are better prepared to pursue a postsecondary training program and career in a technical, business, or health field. During the 1992-93 academic year, 1,256 students from 23 of the 41 comprehensive high schools and 8 vocational-technical career centers in Rhode Island were enrolled in tech prep at the secondary level. Tech prep high school students have participated in career development activities at the college. The program director has made presentations and many educators have come to Rhode Island to observe the program. The program has received a demonstration grant this year from the U.S. Department of Education to design a program evaluation and to develop promotional materials for national dissemination. (Fourteen graphs represent data collected on secondary and postsecondary students participating in the program.) (YLB)

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ED 378 348

RHODE ISLAND TECH PREP

Annual Report
1992-1993

Program Summary
1987-1993

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Preparing Workforce 2000

CONTENTS

Tech Prep Associate Degree Program
District Members 2

Introduction 3

Program Results 5

Statistical Summary 7

Out of State Presentations 15

New Initiatives 16

Financial Highlights 1992/1993 16

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tech Prep Program would like to acknowledge the following agencies for their continued support of the Tech Prep effort and provision of funds and resources to the high schools and the Community College of Rhode Island:

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Center for Career and Technical Education

Rhode Island Office of Higher Education

United States Department of Education

Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886 401.825.2143 TDD 401.825.2307

TECH PREP ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM DISTRICT MEMBERS

Community College of Rhode Island	Edward J. Liston, President
Barrington School District	Ralph A. Malafronte, Superintendent
Bristol/Warren School District	Guy DiBiasio, Superintendent
Burrillville School District	Dennis D. Flynn, Superintendent
Central Falls School District	Maureen Chevrette, Superintendent
Chariho School District	John L. Pini, Superintendent
Coventry School District	Raymond E. Spear, Superintendent
Cranston School District	Edward J. Myers, Superintendent
East Greenwich School District	David P. Connolly, Superintendent
East Providence School District	John V. DeGoes, Superintendent
Exeter/West Greenwich School District	Robert Hicks, Superintendent
Johnston School District	Mary Ann Carroll, Superintendent
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North Kingstown School District	Paul T. Rennick, Superintendent
North Providence School District	David Heimbecker, Superintendent
Providence School District	Arthur Zarrella, Superintendent
Tiverton School District	Esther L. Campbell, Superintendent
Warwick School District	Henry S. Tarlian, Superintendent
Westerly School District	Andrew S. Carrano, Superintendent
West Warwick School District	William A. Jutras, Superintendent
Woonsocket School District	Josephine Kelleher, Superintendent

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the United States is threatened by an unskilled, underprepared workforce. If this country wants to remain competitive in today's global technological economy, we need to create a new style of work that will require higher order skills - such as analytical reasoning, communication, and problem solving skills - from our workforce. By the year 2000, it is estimated that three out of four job classifications will require some form of postsecondary education for entry, but not necessarily the four-year baccalaureate degree. Additionally, most of these new jobs will be in the technical fields. As such, the two-year community and technical colleges will play important roles in the economic development of the country.

History shows that our educational system serves the needs of only 30 percent of our youth - those going to four-year colleges. According to "America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages," the educational performance of those students who are not enrolled in college prep programs but instead in unfocused general education programs is well below the average performance of students in some newly industrialized low wage countries.

The focus of our schools must be to educate those students who will make up seventy percent of the workforce by providing them with school experiences that relate to real world situations. Joint efforts between schools and employers are necessary to prepare young people for this new emerging workplace. These partnerships will help teachers gain access to actual work situations, new resources and expertise. The partnerships will also allow employers to have a say in what is being taught in school and to gain access to new, more qualified employees.

The Rhode Island Tech Prep Associate Degree Program is nationally recognized as a program that is designed to address some of these issues. The Tech Prep Program is a statewide partnership between the Community College of Rhode Island, seventy percent of the high schools in the state, and the business community. It targets those students who are enrolled in unfocused general education programs in our high schools and involves them in an applied course of study in math, science and communications that focuses on the development of strong academic skills.

Tech Prep provides students with an opportunity to enroll in courses at the secondary level that are occupationally related and taught in a "hands-on" cooperative learning setting. These curricula provide students with a better foundation of basic proficiency skills so that they will be better prepared to pursue a postsecondary training program and subsequently a career in a technical, business or health field.

The Rhode Island Tech Prep Program contributes to the improvement of education in a number of ways. First, the objectives of the program provide a forum for the revision/adaption of articulated applied curricula. Second, the program objectives provide curricula at the secondary level which offers basic skills in a clearly defined, goal-oriented, relevant program as an alternative to the general education track. This in turn provides the basis for a postsecondary hands-on, work-ready program of study in a number of career areas. Third, the

objectives of the program provide a process for increased communication and work partnerships between the education sector and the business and industry sector through a statewide consortium.

The need to continue and expand the Tech Prep Program in Rhode Island and across the country has never been more evident or essential, as it will help to promote the economic security of the state, the country and its workers. The Tech Prep Program effectively addresses this country's economic needs and provides students with academic, technical and employability skills needed for employment in a high skill, high wage nation.

The Community College of Rhode Island's position as a visionary of Tech Prep, meaningful educational reform, workplace readiness skills and school to work transition has earned the College, our high schools and the State of Rhode Island a reputation for foresight and innovation in education and preparing today's students for the world of tomorrow and beyond.

PROGRAM RESULTS

Since its inception in 1987, the Tech Prep Program has continued to grow and expand, both in the number of students enrolled and in the types of courses offered within the program itself. During the 1992-1993 academic year, 1,256 students from twenty-three (23) of the forty-one (41) comprehensive high schools and eight (8) vocational technical career centers in Rhode Island were enrolled in Tech Prep at the secondary level. In addition to the technical curriculum which consists of the Principles of Technology, Technical Math and Applied Communications, two additional programs, Allied/Dental Health and Business/Office Administration have been added to Tech Prep. These programs include courses in Applied Biology/Chemistry, College Accounting, College Business and Office Procedures.

Throughout the school year, Tech Prep high school students participated in a number of career development activities held at the college. These activities are designed to introduce students to various careers in science, technical, business/office and health fields as well as to provide them with information about educational and training opportunities that will help them begin to plan for their future after high school graduation.

The first activity held in the Fall of the year was an orientation to the program and a tour of the college for those students enrolled in the first year of the program. This orientation is designed to provide students with an overview of the Tech Prep Program, not only what they can expect to learn and what options it can lead to, but what the program expects from the student - a commitment to follow the program through to completion.

A senior luncheon was held at CCRI in the Spring for students in the twelfth grade. At this annual event, students complete a Math Placement Assessment. This exam is required of all incoming CCRI students so that they may be appropriately placed in a math course that best suits their needs and current skill level. Students also attended workshops that provided information on college life and financial aid. Personnel from various departments at the college such as Admissions, Cooperative Education and Career Services were available to talk with students about the many services available at CCRI.

For those students who did decide to continue their education at the Community College, an Early Registration Day was held in the late spring. Those students were able to register for classes earlier than other incoming freshman; Tech Prep staff and college faculty were available to assist with program and course selection.

An Allied Health Career Day was also held in the late spring for high school students who were interested in health careers. After listening to a brief overview of the various Allied Health programs at CCRI, students attended a series of workshops that focused on the specific career areas in Allied Health. The workshops were conducted in actual lab settings where students were provided with an opportunity to participate in some hands-on activities.

In addition to conducting student activities, the Tech Prep Program also hosted numerous workshops for teachers, guidance counselors and CCRI faculty. In-service training, staff development workshops and seminars were scheduled throughout the year to provide training for teachers in using the applied curricula and to give educators an opportunity to meet and share ideas and concerns.

Tech Prep staff also met with administrators, students and parents throughout the year in an effort to promote the program and to provide program information to those high schools that are not participating in Tech Prep.

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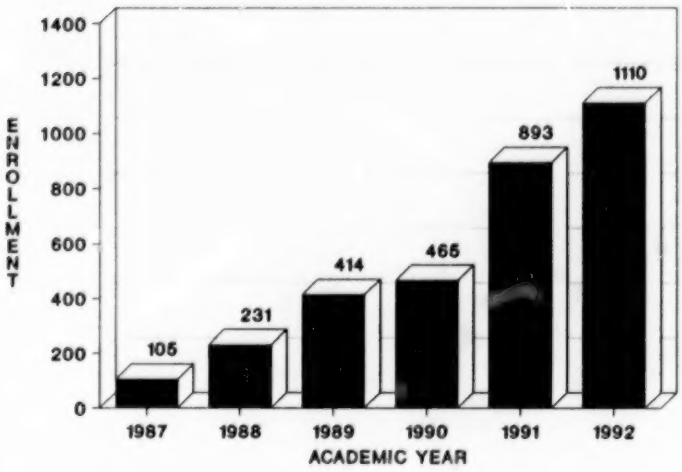
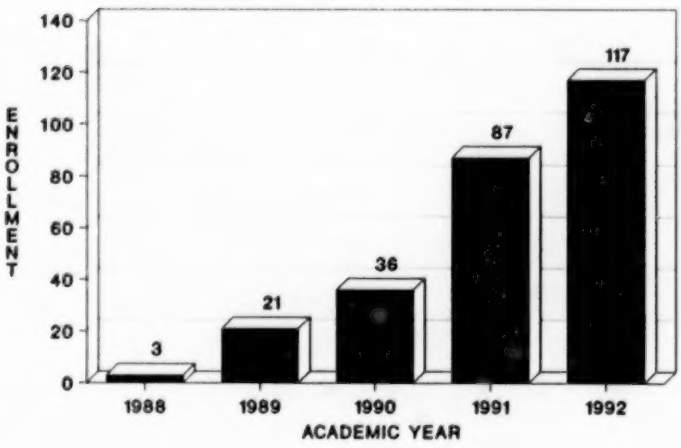
STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The following graphs represent data collected on students participating in the Rhode Island Tech Prep Associate Degree Program at the secondary and post-secondary level.

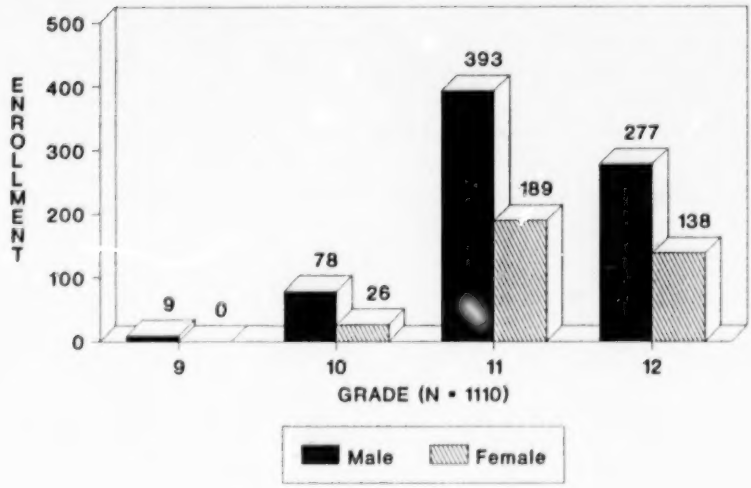
NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY ACADEMIC YEAR
TECH PREP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: 1987-1992



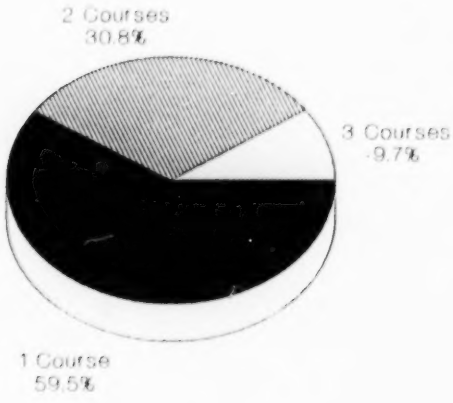
NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY ACADEMIC YEAR
TECH PREP CCRI STUDENTS: 1988-1992



TECH PREP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY GRADE: 1992-1993

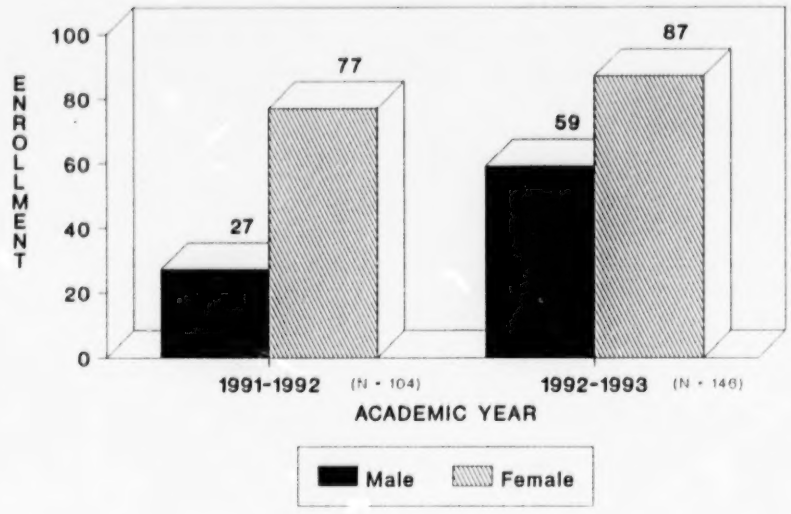


TECH PREP HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY NUMBER OF CORE COURSES: 1992-1993

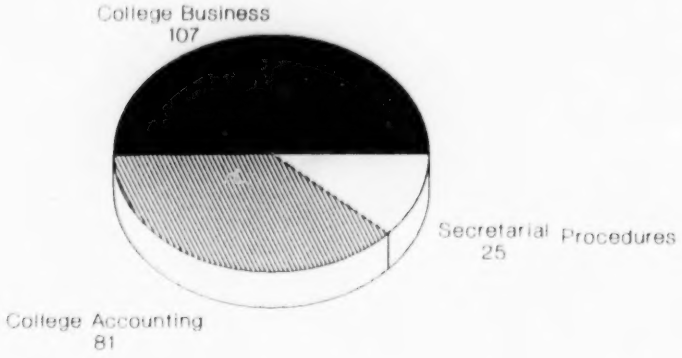


At least 1 course is PTI or PTII

TECH PREP BUSINESS PROGRAM
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

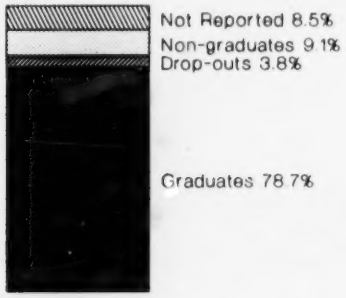


1992-1993 BUSINESS COURSE ENROLLMENT
BY TOTAL PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS



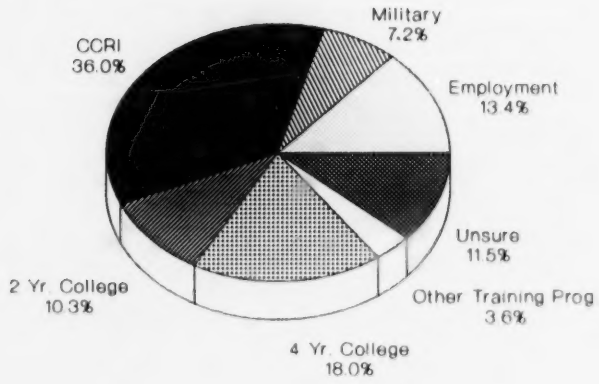
TOTAL PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS = 10

1992-1993 TECH PREP HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR STUDENTS GRADUATES/DROP-OUTS/NON-GRADUATES



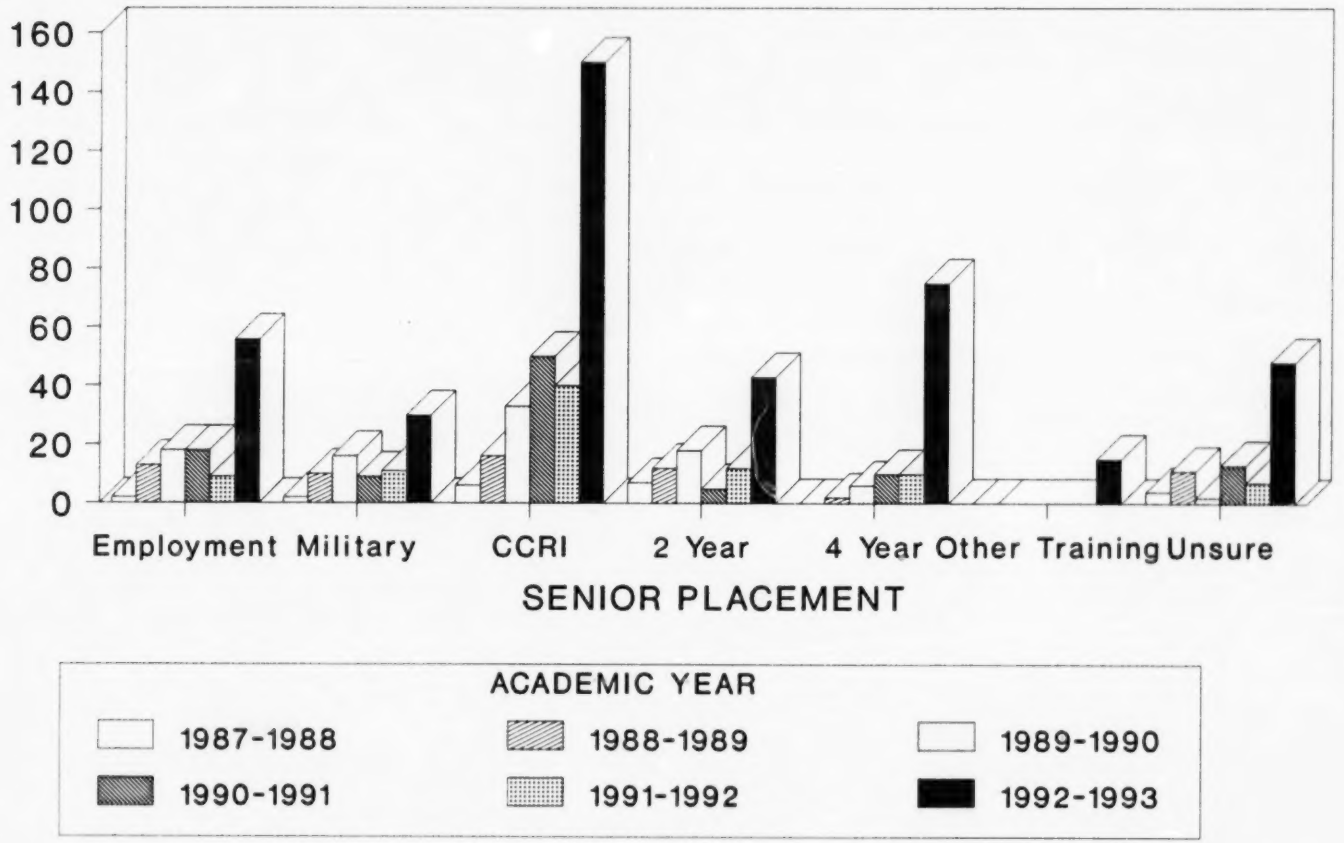
SENIOR STUDENT ENROLLMENT • 518

1992-1993 SENIOR PLACEMENT SURVEY (N • 417)

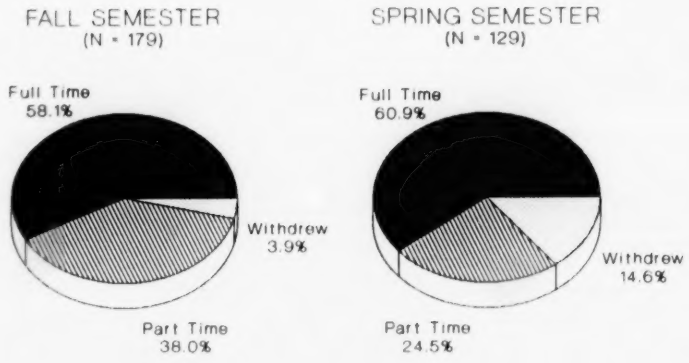


The Senior Placement Survey is administered to all high school seniors participating in the TPAD Program in order to obtain information about their post-graduation plans.

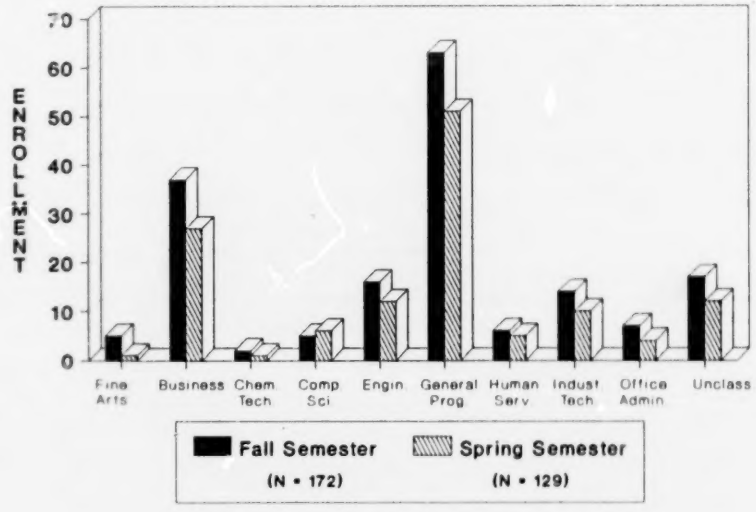
TECH PREP HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PLACEMENT BY ACADEMIC YEAR: 1988-1992



CCRI TECH PREP STUDENT ENROLLMENT
1992-1993

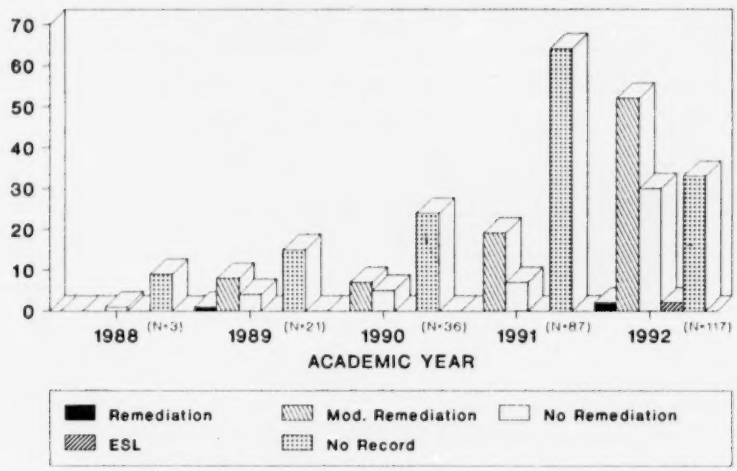


CCRI TECH PREP STUDENT ENROLLMENT
BY PROGRAM OF STUDY: 1992-1993

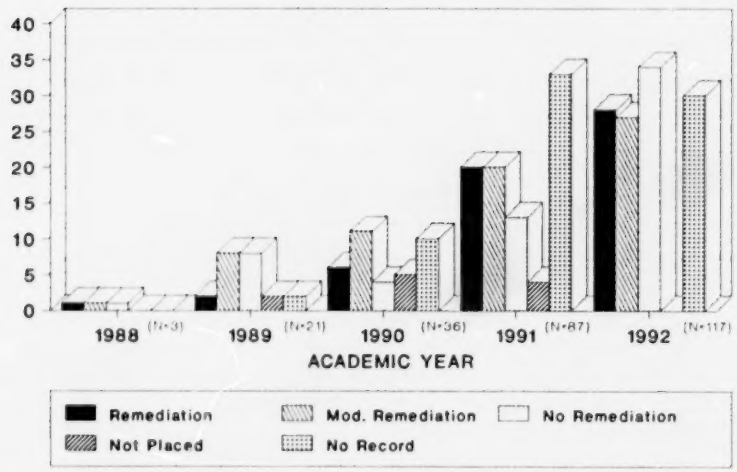


CCRI TECH PREP STUDENT
ENGLISH and MATH PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

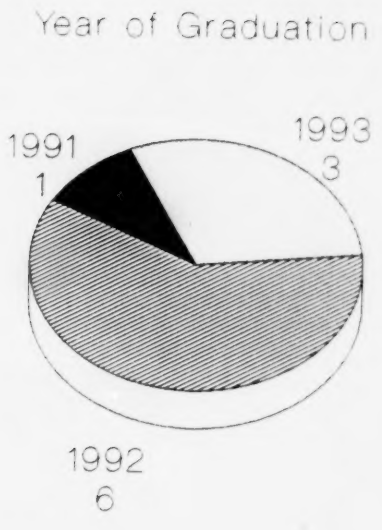
ENGLISH PLACEMENT RESULTS BY
ACADEMIC YEAR ENROLLED

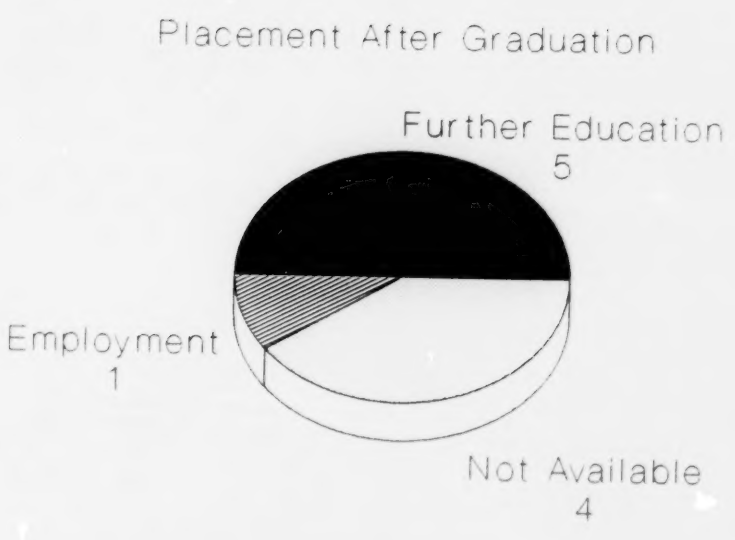


MATH PLACEMENT RESULTS BY
ACADEMIC YEAR ENROLLED



TECH PREP ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM
CCRI GRADUATES (N = 10)





OUT OF STATE PRESENTATIONS

A national effort is underway in the United States to establish tech prep programs around the country, and many states have turned to Rhode Island for assistance with the development and implementation of such programs in their communities. As a result, the Tech Prep Program Director has been invited to a number of other states to present the Rhode Island model.

The following out of state presentations were made in the 1992-1993 grant year:

Quincy Public Schools, MA
College Board National Forum, NY
Cumberland County Community College, NJ
Pikes Peak Community College, CO
US Department of Education, Washington, DC
Putnam Westchester BOCES, NY
University of New Mexico, NM
Kansas Department of Education, KS
Community College of Morris, NJ
National Tech Prep Conference, IL
University of Albany, NY
Wisconsin Vocational Association, WI
Jersey City College, NJ
National Tech Prep Conference, TX

In additio.. to out of state presentations by the RI Tech Prep Program Director, many educators have come to the Rhode Island to observe the Tech Prep Program during the 1992-1993 grant period. In addition to the various educators who visited the Tech Prep office at CCRI to speak to Program Director Judy Marmaras and Program Coordinator Pat Neri about the model RI program, two formal on-site visits were arranged. The majority of the visitors came to Rhode Island to gather information about our program so that they could use it to replicate the program in their state.

On March 22 and 23, 1993 approximately 25 people came to Rhode Island to learn more about the Rhode Island Tech Prep Associate Degree Program. On March 22, the visitors came to the Community College, where they learned about the Program and its history in this state as well as received a tour of the college. The visitors came from South Dakota, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The second day of the visit was spent at Woonsocket High School, where these educators were provided the opportunity to observe Tech Prep classes in session and to speak to Tech Prep students, instructors and administrators at the secondary level.

On May 13 and 14, 1993 approximately 18 people came to another scheduled on-site visit. After receiving a Program overview at the Community College, the visitors observed Tech Prep classes at Johnston High School. These visitors came from Iowa, Massachusetts and New York.

NEW INITIATIVES

The Rhode Island Tech Prep Program received a demonstration grant this year from the United States Department of Education to design an evaluation for the program and to develop a number of promotional materials that would be used for national dissemination.

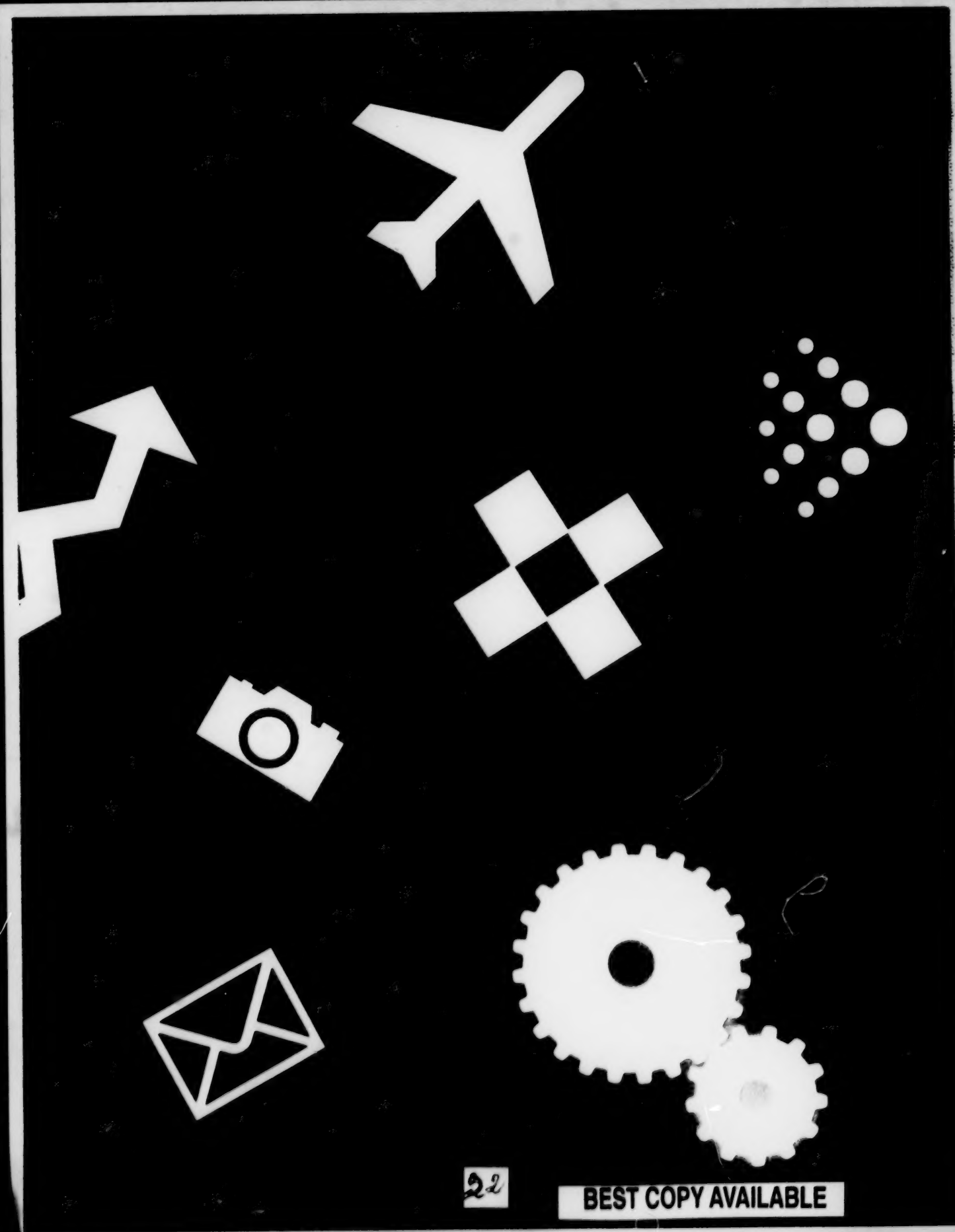
Dr. Charles Mojkowski served as the consultant to develop the evaluation design and Andrea MacQueen was hired to conduct the evaluation once the design was completed. The evaluation will be conducted during the 1993-1994 school year and the results will be published in August, 1994. This design will serve as a model for other Tech Prep Programs around the country.

As a result of these grant funds, a number of new promotional materials have been developed for use in Rhode Island as well as for national dissemination. Cheryl Serra, the marketing coordinator for the program, is working with a number of consulting firms to create printed and audiovisual materials for students, educators, parents, and businesses. The following promotional materials are being developed:

Brochure for Educators
Brochure for Parents
Brochure for Students
Brochure for Business and Industry
Student Handbook
Program Guide for Educators
How to Implement Guide for Program Developers
Poster
Informational Video
Career Briefs
Newsletters for Students and Educators
A Business and Industry Resource Guide for Teachers

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - 1992/1993

OFFICE OF HIGHER ED.	RI STATE DEPT. OF ED.	WORKFORCE 2000	US DEPT. OF ED.
$23,103	$152,755	$5400	$312,657



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CCRI
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RHODE ISLAND TECH PREP

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Students requiring special accommodations because of a disability should contact John White, Director of Affirmative Action Programs, at (401) 455-6011.

The US Department of Education has funded the Tech Prep Demonstration project for the integration of vocational and academic learning.

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